

SLIDING DOWN HILL.

IN CITIES THIS SPORT IS KNOWN AS COASTING.

No Matter What It Is Called, It Is One of the Most Thrilling of Mountain Amusements—Meteorite Descents and Jolly Profane Tramps Up Again.

Coasting is the name applied in cities and towns to that northern winter sport which in its most modern evolution is termed tobogganing and requires a specially constructed sled for its practice. "Sliding down hill" is what it used to be called in certain country districts 20 or 30 years ago, and by this term it is still known in many localities. Its name doesn't matter anyway. If there is a more thrilling, jolly amusement, I have yet to enjoy it or hear of it.

It is only in certain places that the sport ever rises to the dignity of a science, or that it can be practiced with comparative safety. In cities or towns or their near vicinity there is room only in the streets, and there the danger from col-

was secured that was far more exciting than the ride down west hill, though not so prolonged.

There were no "deadly boys" in The Hook. There were to my knowledge but two "soughten" sleds. The owner of a jolly painted and livery sled from a groom was jeered at by his companions as a "girl boy." The best sleds were constructed by the village wagon maker, and about half of them were "knee sleds" and the rest "boards." There was a great diversity of opinion as to the proper shape of a sled runner. Some held that it should be low and sharp, with a slight, long curve, others that it should be high and with a rather short rounding curve.

All agreed, however, that the runner must be supplemented by a good "shoe," and concerning this important point there was again a great diversity of opinion. Those who lived east of the millpond, that is, toward the city, were in favor of those who lived west, and those who lived west, and those who lived east, though the matter of sled shoes had been argued every winter for 40 years when I first knew The Hook, it was as far from settled as ever when I left the place. Victory would perch on the banner of the "east ironers" after an exciting race down north hill, only to shift to that of the west contingent the next day after an equally exciting trial of speed down west hill. It was the general consensus of Hook opinion at the close of that season, I believe, that the sled shoes were best on road work, while the east ones were better for coast riding. But the next winter the controversy broke out anew with all its original violence and intensity.

There were then and still are three ways of steering a sled—by the legs, astride—straddle, the sleds called "ice-and-karrits." I am not sure about the proper spelling of this word, which can only be ascertained when its derivation has been discovered. It is not in my dictionary so far as I know, and I have spelled it phonetically. The steersman sat on his doubled-up legs, left leg astride his right leg behind the sled, the right leg behind the sled, and the feet of the sled with his right. Each method of steering had its advocates. "By the legs" was best in favor among the boys because the rider could not get out and was in danger of hitting his brains out, and among the parents because it was a great deal harder on sled leather than the other two methods. It was used very little on either of the long rides.

"Straddle" steering was safest if more than one passenger was to be taken on the sled, but karrits was the general favorite. It certainly possessed double advantages when the steersman was a sturdy young fellow, broad to the knees, broad shouldered and deep chested, and the passenger a star-eyed, pink checked, carmine tipped Hook girl. The karrits



GOING DOWN THE GREAT "STRAIGHT" SLED.

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THE OLD FOLKS AND THE BOYS'S RUN.

The sled was made from the village to a woods across the plain, whereon down hill a dozen families only. Because these inhabitants were so few the traffic over the road was small and the danger from collisions between sleds and sleds and sleds and sleds. The road had no long, precipitous reaches, no short, sharp turns, no high and dangerous banks on its lower side for careless steersmen to run off and break their necks or their sleds or their sleds. It was a good road and a full long, gently sloping most of the way, but with an occasional "pitch" to hand to hand, two or three curves that rendered good steering desirable and about a dozen of those "water" turns that are so commonly called "hook" turns. If you have ever rode down hill in a good coasting country, you will understand just what the road was like.

North hill had no road. It was not available as a riding place most years, for generally the high winds swept it



"THE "KARITTS.""

nearly bare of snow, which was piled in high drifts around the stumps and the fences. This winter the snow lay still, and each day's snow would melt the top a little, which would freeze at night, and in time the bottom of white, smooth expanse was covered with a crust strong enough to bear a man and even a horse, and over which a good sled would glide with such a speed as to take away the breath of an inexperienced rider. The farm owners kindly consented to have a few lengths of fence taken down so as to give the pleasure seekers full swing, and a ride of about half a mile over the crust, which terminated at the pond.



HARTLEY'S STATUE - ERICSSON.

Gold Under a Cataract. Saguinaw falls, in this state, have developed an attraction not down on the guidebooks. The story is vouched for by reputable men working on that stream.

A big piece of quartz boulder, rich in the precious metal, has been secured from an unknown depth directly underneath the huge fall of water, and the most wonderful part of the story is the manner in which it was secured and the precious stone was secured from a place almost unapproachable.

Raining legs over the 265-foot fall has been a custom for many years past, and there is no prettier sight in the world than to see the giant sticks shoot out into space and hit a dip, head on, into the roaring water below.

During the shooting of the legs one particular log went over recently and shot straight downward and was lost in the pool below. After it had risen to the surface and floated a few moments it was seen to have a rock embedded in one end, which, upon examination, was found to be quartz rich in gold.

The only explanation is that the log in the mud plunge into the pool under the falls came in contact with some ledge of gold with force enough to embed the piece found in the firm wood.—Seattle Telegraph.

The Frenzied Professor. The professor in a newspaper office has much to answer for, but the Brooklyn Eagle is "pulling it on" rather too heavily when it says: He is responsible for making the headlines "Demonstrative joy of Chicago" the "demonstrative joy of Chicago." The latter accurately describes the periodical possession of the World's Fair City, but it is not kind to refer to her weakness. He is just as guilty of libel when he made The Tribune in the days of Horace Greeley say "Richard III" when it meant "William III." And he has even made Dr. Talmage's trousers fit by indulging the work of the libel and compositor who set up the first line of one of the famous preacher's sermons in this way, "My tall friend, our Lord," when it should have been, "My tall friend our Lord."

It is not necessary to mention any more instances of the professor's peculiar villainy—we are writing as an editor now, and not in the excited and unprejudiced mood that becomes us when we discuss politics and religion with judicial impartiality. Every one has heard of the professor who consented to the printing of "no cows no cream," for "no cross no crown," and of "in the richness of sin" for "in the tower of Asia."—Troy Times.

A Man's Wardrobe. A gentleman's complete wardrobe consists of a dress suit, including a "Tuxedo," the ever popular frock coat, the modest diagonal or carborene and the distinctive business or checked business suit—at least three changes—and four or five pairs of trousers, varying in color and pattern, so as to answer for any occasion and look suitable with any coat and waistcoat. In addition a man should possess overcoats for spring, fall and winter wear, besides an ulster for very severe weather.

The prudent man will appreciate the fact that there is economy in having a complete outfit as suggested, so as to avoid wearing any particular garment incessantly and causing it to look shabby before it is worn out. The "Tuxedo" may be dispensed with. Two business suits might as well—one of cassimere or cheviot and the other of black worsted, which can be worn ordinarily in the evening. One lightweight overcoat could be used for spring and autumn if proper judgment be exercised in the selection. Good material, good trimmings and good workmanship are essential to economy.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

An Artist's Memorial. A monument to the memory of Raffet, erected in the garden of the Louvre, was inaugurated in the presence of all the leading notabilities of the artistic world. It consists of the bust of that artist on a granite pillar, with a trophy of three flags, representing the first republic, the first empire and the reign of Louis Philippe, surrounding the statue of these flags is a wreath of laurel and a cuirass with a hole in it made by a cannon ball. It is the exact copy of the cuirass at the Artillery museum, the layalides which belonged to a young carabinieri of the empire named Faugcarin, killed at Water-

loo. The large bronze figure at the foot of the pedestal represents one of the most famous of Raffet, the "Breville." It is that of a drummer of the Fusiliers of the Guard of 1804. The drummer is beating in arms and at his feet is a visible inscription. This extremely artistic monument is the work of M. Fremiet, the well-known sculptor and author of the monument to Jean of Arc.—Paris Letter in London Standard.

A Wall From Gotham. Reduce all New York city car fares to 5 cents. It is quite enough and will be a rebuke to the revocation of the street railroad franchises, which should be done without delay. The pavements and sidewalks of the city are in a disgraceful condition. Let the city run the cars for the benefit of the people, and the surplus profit could be devoted to giving New York the finest streets in the world. The street monopolists have had their innings; the people now want a show.

Let us make it an election issue—"The 5 cents for the people"—and crush the monopolists. If we have to pay toll to use our streets, let us pay it to ourselves, and not to the impudent grabbers who now occupy them to pay the law and levy tribute on citizens.—India.

A Tippecanoe Resolution. About 70 years ago the grand jury of the county of Tippecanoe passed the following resolutions: "First, That a new courthouse should be built. Second, That the materials of the old courthouse be used in building the new courthouse. Third, That the old courthouse shall not be taken down till the new courthouse is finished."—Seventy Years of Irish Life.

Casimir Perier. Casimir Perier, the French premier, is credited with the possession of a determined will. He has a calm manner and soldierly air and distinguished himself in the Franco-Prussian war as a captain of Mousquetaires. An anecdote that is said to be characteristic of the man relates that, having observed the accurate marksmanship of one of the soldiers, he prompted him the military medal and added, "Where did you learn to shoot so well?" "Non capitaine," replied the soldier, "it was while practicing on the peasants in your park." The conversation ended there, but the soldier got his medal in due course of events.—Kansas City Times.

A Photograph of Beecher. We photographers have greater opportunities to study human nature, and making a lady laugh is not the one trick of the calling. In order to take good photographs one should know something about the sitters' habits and surroundings. This he must learn at a single glance or by an abrupt question.

Henry Ward Beecher thoroughly enjoyed having his photograph taken. To use his own words, "Whenever I have 10 minutes to spare I run up and have Searcy make a nice photograph of me." Mr. Beecher was impulsive and careless. By talking to him for a few moments about a favorite subject I could arouse his enthusiasm, and then when the fire was still in his eyes and his face was lighted up with expression I snapped the camera and got a picture in which Beecher, the orator and preacher, and Beecher, the thinker, struck out at every point.—Napoleon Sarony in New York Herald.

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